

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-02 H-02

/055 W

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R 291207Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9803

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PASS USDOC, EXIM, OPIC, AID/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EAID, SU

SUBJ: NEW MININDUSTRY SEEKS AMERICAN ASSISTANCE

BEGIN SUMMARY. COMMENTS MININD SULIMAN, AS WELL AS MEDIA ORCHESTRATION CURRENT AMERICAN VISITS, SERVES UNDERLINE REGIME'S MESSAGE THAT GOS ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN MAXIMIZING COLLABORATION WITH AMERICAN FIRMS AND, HOPEFULLY, USG. BELIEVE WE SHOULD DO ALL WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE THIS TREND, EVEN WHILE DIRECT BILATERAL AID UNAVAILABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. I WAS ASKED CALL ON MININD AND MINING BADR AL-DIN SULIMAN APRIL 28, OSTENSIBLY TO FULFILL MY LONGSTANDING REQUEST PAY COURTESY CALL ON HIM AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT LAST JANUARY.NFN COURSE SOMEWHAT MEANDERING HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION, SULIMAN SAID REGIME HAD HOUND IT NECESSARY RE-THINK ITS APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, WHY WAS NEW KHARTOUM TANNERY RUNNING AT 60 PER CENT CAPACITY BECAUSE BEST HIDES AND SKINS ARE STILL BEING EXPORTED. HIS SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS, BEING REPORTED BY MEMCON, MAY BE SUM-
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MARIZED IN FOUR MAJOR POINTS: (A) NEW REPUBLICAN DECREE

PUBLICIZED APRIL 27 REORGANIZING GOS DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IS DESIGNED RATIONALIZE AND INTEGRATE OVERALL PLANNING PROCESS UNDER ENTIRE CABINET WHICH WILL BE SERVED BY CABINET COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY NEW MINFIN BIHEIRI; (B) THERE SHOULD BE SHIFT FROM IMPORT SUBSTITUTION APPROACH TO ONE WHICH WOULD FULLY UTILIZE AVAILABLE SUDANESE RAW MATERIALS AND BY-PRODUCTS (E.G., MOLASSES, BAGASSE, PAPER AND PAPERBOARD); (C) HE DESIRED AMERICAN COMPANIES TO BE AWARE OF THERE OPPORTUNITIES IN SUDAN AND PROMISED PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH PRIORITY LIST OF INDUSTRIAL AREAS ON WHICH HIS MINISTRY NOW HOPING FOCUS; AND (D) IT WOULD BE NECESSARY ESTABLISH TECHNICAL UNIT TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS INDUSTRIALIZATION PROCESS AND HE HOPED US COULD ASSIST BY PROVIDING KNOW-HOW, DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLETS AND TECHNICAL ADVICE AS TO HOW DEVELOPMENT MIGHT BEST PROCEED.

2. IN REPLY, I SAID EMBASSY ALWAYS READY BE OF ASSISTANCE IN INTERESTING AMERICAN FIRMS IN SUDANESE PROJECT POSSIBILITIES. WE WOULD CALL NEW PRIORITY LIST, WHEN RECEIVED, TO ATTENTION DEPT OF COMMERCE WHICH HAD NUMBER MECHANISMS FOR ASSURING THAT AMERICAN INDUSTRY LEARNS PROMPTLY OF THEM. EXIM BANK REMAINED READY TO CONSIDER RENEWALS AND MODERATE-SIZED NEW TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING SALES TO SUDAN UNDER FCIA AND COMMERCIAL BANK GUARANTEE PROGRAM (STATE 083408). AS TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, I CALLED SULIMAN'S ATTENTION TO EXISTENCE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE CROPS (IESC), DESCRIBED ITS FUNCTIONS AND SAID I WOULD SEND HIM IESC PAMPHLET DESCRIBING ITS OPERATIONS.

3. SULIMAN SAID HE WELCOMED THIS BUT THEN INDICATED, SOMEWHAT INDIRECTLY, THAT WHAT HE REALLY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE WOULD BE SEVERAL QUALIFIED EXPERTS FINANCED BY USG. RECALLING UNFORTUNATE HISTORY OUR RELATIONS STEMMING FROM SUDANESE DECISION LAST JUNE TO RELEASE MURDERERS, I THEN SAID THAT "HOLD" CONTINUED TO EXIST ON BILATERAL AID TO SUDAN. I COULD NOT PREDICT IF, OR WHEN, THIS MIGHT BE LIFTED BUT CAUTIONED SULIMAN THAT, VIEW GENERAL PROBLEMS RECENT AID APPROPRIATIONS IT WOULD IN ANY CASE BE UNREALISTIC EXPECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THIS SOURCE IN NEAR FUTURE. SULIMAN SEEMED DISAPPOINTED BUT SAID HE WOULD TRY TO FIND OTHER MEANS FOR ASSURING SUDAN GETS BEST POSSIBLE ADVICE ON HOW TO DEVELOP ITS EXISTING RESOURCES. I EMPHASIZED EMBASSY FULLY PREPARED DO WHAT IT COULD TO HELP WITHIN EXISTING POLICY GUIDELINES AND SULIMAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

4. COMMENT: WHILE TIMING CALL PROBABLY RELATED TO

CONCURRENT VISITS HERE CHASE MANHATTAN TEAM TO SEE ABOUT OPENING RESIDENT OFFICE AND AALC LABOR TEAM (BOTH OF WHICH, TOGETHER WITH MY CALL, PROMINENTLY FEATURED BY ALL LOCAL MEDIA APRIL 29), FACT IS THAT REGIME DOES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN REORDERING ITS PRIORITIES. WE BELIEVE THIS REFLECTS EFFORT BY NEW MINFIN ASSERT REQUISITE CONTROL OVER BUDGETARY PROCESS IN ORDER ASSURE THAT MULTIFARIOUS DEVELOPMENTAL EXPENDITURES (A) CAN BE FUNDED; AND (B) WILL MAKE MOST EFFICIENT CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL SUDANESE DEVELOPMENT. IT ALSO SEEMS CLEAR, ON BASIS SULIMAN'S COMMENTS AND MY RECENT TALKS WITH ACTING FONMIN (KHARTOUM 965) AND MINFIN, THAT GOS NOW MORE ACTIVELY SOLICITING COLLABORATION WITH AMERICAN FIRMS AND, HOPEFULLY, USG. DOUBT WE CAN ASSUME REGIME WILL WISH REMAIN IN THIS POSTURE INDEFINITELY UNLESS THERE IS SOME SORT OF AMERICAN RESPONSE. ACCORDINGLY, AS FIRST STEP, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SPECIAL SHIPMENT BOOKLETS ON POPULAR HOUSING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES SUITABLE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY WHICH I BELIEVE OBTAINABLE THROUGH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. ALSO WILL WELCOME SOME CONCRETE GUIDANCE ALONG LINES REQUESTED KHARTOUM 965.

BREWER

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TAGS: ECON, EAID, SU, US
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